



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER – Governor
RICHARD M. ARMSTRONG -- Director

LESLIE M. CLEMENT - Administrator
DIVISION OF MEDICAID
Post Office Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0036
PHONE: (208) 334-5747
FAX: (208) 364-1811

Division of Medicaid Report to the 2007 Legislature on 2006 Legislative Direction

HB 849: Family-Directed Services

Summary of Purpose

Medicaid's 2006 appropriations bill contained intent language directing Medicaid "to study the feasibility of implementing parent and guardian-directed care for children with developmental disabilities similar to the effort made on behalf of adults with developmental disabilities for self-determination," and to report results of the review and any recommendations for further legislative action, if appropriate.

Action Taken

In May 2006, the Division of Medicaid and the Council on Developmental Disabilities, Comprehensive Advocacy, parents, several universities, and other stakeholders formed a working group to discuss family directed services. In July 2006, Medicaid hosted a conference on best practices and available data, and discussed the working group's vision for the program.

Outcomes of Actions

Following is a summary of the working group's vision for the program, including policy goals, ideal benefits, program eligibility, program cost, program operations, and possible risks.

Policy Goals

The group developed the following policy goals for Family Directed Services:

- Children receive the services they need in a flexible and individualized way.
- Medicaid dollars are used efficiently and effectively to meet needs.
- Families direct services that make responsible use of available public dollars.
- New approach integrates well with other existing systems such as family support.
- Expand the sources of support available to children.
- Improved responsiveness among traditional service providers.
- Increase service provision that results in increased community integration and participation among participants.
- Families and children have the knowledge and skills needed to self-direct their services.
- Families and children have the knowledge and skills needed to transition effectively to the adult system.
- Family directed Medicaid services integrate well with and are enhanced by complementing family supports that address child and family needs not met through Medicaid.

Ideal Benefits

The group recommended that benefits for children in this program emphasize family supports that enable families to provide needed support at home, as well as assist families to stay intact, enhance their quality of life, be included in the community, and guide the minor child with a disability toward achievement of the State's and nation's goal for people with disabilities. These supports should include:

- Personal support to ensure health and safety.
- Relationship support to help ensure good family relationships.
- Emotional and behavioral support.
- Learning supports.
- Transportation supports.
- Adaptive equipment to support independence.
- Skilled nursing support.

Program Eligibility

The group recommended that children with developmental disabilities who are living at home with family or guardians be eligible for the program.

Cost of Family Directed Services

The cost for developing a family-directed service delivery system are estimated to be \$49,500 and will be covered with operating funds of the Department of Health and Welfare/Division of Medicaid, the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities and other supporting stakeholder organizations. Operational costs are projected to be cost-neutral.

Program Operations

Traditional services for children with developmental disabilities should remain available. The Family Directed Services Program will be similar to the self directed program being developed for adults with developmental disabilities to include the following similar elements:

- Eligibility determination.
- Individual budget allocation.
- Service planning.
- Supports that can be purchased.
- Fiscal accountability.
- Fiscal Employer Agent functionality.
- Comprehensive quality assurance.

Areas of Risk

- Education and training for Medicaid beneficiaries.
- Education and training of both traditional and non-traditional support providers.
- Encouraging development of an agile and responsive supports network.
- Achieving the necessary shift in cultural values surrounding methods of acquiring services.
- Alignment with other family support practices.
- Gaining approval from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

Recommendations

Implementing a cost-neutral, effective means of family direction for children's Medicaid services is a feasible goal. Additional legislative direction and stakeholder feedback would advance this preliminary proposal.